

**DECLARATION UNDER 35 USC §371(c)(4) FOR
PCT APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below under my name;

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought, namely the invention entitled: OPTICAL ELEMENT AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS described and claimed in international application number PCT/JP2004/012296 filed August 26, 2004.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56.

Under Title 35, U.S. Code §119, the priority benefits of the following foreign application(s) filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns within one year prior to my international application are hereby claimed:

Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-302122 filed on August 26, 2003
Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-303432 filed on August 27, 2003
Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-302319 filed on August 27, 2003
Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-336162 filed on September 26, 2003
Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-041848 filed on February 18, 2004
Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-042157 filed on February 18, 2004
Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-042752 filed on February 19, 2004
Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-044229 filed on February 20, 2004

The following application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention were filed in countries foreign to the United States of America either (a) more than one year prior to my international application, or (b) before the filing date of the above-named foreign priority application(s):

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, CUSTOMER NUMBER 25944, TELEPHONE (703) 836-6400.

I hereby declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of this Declaration, and that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1	Typewritten Full Name of Sole or First Inventor:	Takeshi SHIRAI		
		Given Name	Middle Initial	Family Name
2	Inventor's Signature:	白井 伸		
3	Date of Signature:	Feb. 17 2006		
		Month	Day	Year
	Residence:	Yokohama-shi KANAGAWA-ken Japan		
		City	State or Province	Country
	Citizenship:	Japanese		
	Post Office Address:	c/o Nikon Corporation, 2-3, Marumouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo		
	(Insert complete mailing address, including country)	100-8331 Japan		

Note to Inventor: Please sign name on line 2 exactly as it appears in line 1 and insert the actual date of signing on line 3.

IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE INVENTOR USE PAGE 2 AND PLACE AN "X" HERE ☒
(Discard this page in a sole inventor application)

1 *Typewritten Full Name of Joint Inventor:* Takao KOKUBUN
Given Name Middle Initial Family Name

2 *Inventor's Signature:* 國分 崇生

3 *Date of Signature:* Feb. 16 2006
Month Day Year

Residence: Fuchu-shi Tokyo Japan
City State or Province Country

Citizenship: Japanese

Post Office Address: c/o Nikon Corporation, 2-3, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8331
(Insert complete mailing address, including country) Japan

1 *Typewritten Full Name of Joint Inventor:* Hitoshi ISHIZAWA
Given Name Middle Initial Family Name

2 *Inventor's Signature:* 石澤 均

3 *Date of Signature:* Feb. 16 2006
Month Day Year

Residence: Kawasaki-shi Kanagawa-ken JAPAN
City State or Province Country

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Post Office Address: c/o Nikon Corporation, 2-3, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8331
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1 *Typewritten Full Name of Joint Inventor:* Atsunobu MURAKAMI
Given Name Middle Initial Family Name

2 *Inventor's Signature:* 村上 敦信

3 *Date of Signature:* Feb. 17 2006
Month Day Year

Residence: Fuchu-shi Tokyo Japan
City State or Province Country

Citizenship: Japanese

Post Office Address: c/o Nikon Corporation, 2-3, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8331
(Insert complete mailing address, including country) Japan

1 *Typewritten Full Name of Joint Inventor:* _____
Given Name Middle Initial Family Name

2 *Inventor's Signature:* _____

3 *Date of Signature:* _____
Month Day Year

Residence: _____
City State or Province Country

Citizenship: _____

Post Office Address: _____
(Insert complete mailing address, including country)

Note to Inventor: Please sign name on line 2 exactly as it appears in line 1 and insert the actual date of signing on line 3.
This form may be executed only when attached to the first page of the Declaration and Power of Attorney of the application to which it pertains.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takeshi SHIRAI et al.

Application No.: New U.S. National Stage of
PCT/JP2004/012296

Filed: February 23, 2006

Docket No.: 127104

For: OPTICAL ELEMENT AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS

**TRANSMITTAL OF POWER OF ATTORNEY AND
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 3.73(b)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is a Power of Attorney from the Assignee.

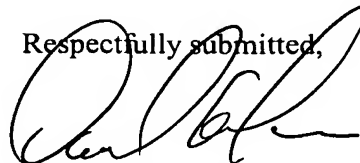
In compliance with 37 CFR §3.73(b), the undersigned hereby states that NIKON CORPORATION is the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in the patent application identified above by virtue of an assignment from the inventors of the patent application identified above. A copy of the assignment is attached hereto and is concurrently being submitted for recordation.

The undersigned is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.36(a), submission of this Power of Attorney revokes any powers of attorney previously given.

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION SHOULD
BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, CUSTOMER NO. 25944, TELEPHONE
(703) 836-6400.**

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,734

MAC:DAT/mps
Date: February 23, 2006

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
TO PROSECUTE APPLICATIONS BEFORE
THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Assignee Name and Address: NIKON CORPORATION
Fuji Bldg., 2-3 Marunouchi 3-chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 Japan

appoints the patent practitioners associated with Oliff & Berridge, PLC Customer
Number 25944 to represent it before the United States Patent and Trademark Office in
connection with any and all U.S. patent applications assigned to the above-named assignee.

The undersigned is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION
SHOULD BE SENT TO OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC, CUSTOMER NO. 25944,
TELEPHONE (703) 836-6400.**

July 8, 2004
Date

Takao Watanabe
Signature

Typed Name: Takao WATANABE

Title: Vice President, Core Technology Center